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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MISSOURI NATURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 18, Number 4 April 2013

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Turtle
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In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful.

~ Alice Walker
American Author
1944 - present

PEOPLE & PLACES

MoNEP Exhibit Deadline – 4/16

The deadline for submitting images for the MoNEP exhibits at MDC's **Runge Conservation Nature Center** and **Shaw Nature Reserve** is **Tuesday, April 16th** at our monthly meeting

If you are interested, please prepare and submit up to **five** nature images to **Lori Purk** at the April meeting. Images should be of subjects that can be found in Missouri. The exhibit at Shaw Nature Reserve has a more narrow subject matter focus, with a theme of ***Food***. Since we will not be able to show as many pieces at the second exhibit, those that fit the theme the best will be moved to the second venue. This theme can be interpreted many ways. We suggest you think about who eats what, or who eats whom in nature in Missouri. Subjects can include: insects and other animals feeding on plants; animals hunting prey or grazing; birds feeding their young; spider webs for capturing prey; hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees feeding on flower nectar; squirrels storing nuts; edible native fruits trees and shrubs.

Submissions should be submitted on a CD. They should be sized as they would be for *Share and Show* or the *Holiday Show* and labeled with your name, the title of the piece, where the photograph was taken and what the subject is. Please refer to the MoNEP web site for more information on how to resize your images before putting them on a CD for submission.

Please include your name, email and phone number with your submissions. Feel free to contact Lori Purk at **314-869-7427** or **purkyl8r@aol.com** if you have any questions.

MoNEP Meetings Return To Powder Valley Nature Center

MoNEP will be based back at **Powder Valley Nature Center** for our monthly meetings through September. Powder Valley Nature Center is located at **11715 Cragwold Road, in Kirkwood, Missouri**. The nature center is at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Powder Valley Conservation Area near the junction of Highways I-44 and I-270. The meeting times will continue to be from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Share and Show Returns

Starting at this month's meeting. we are resurrecting ***Share and Show***. For those new to MoNEP, members are invited to submit and share a few of their nature images during the meeting. We often suggest a theme to challenge members with an assignment, however you are not limited to that theme. The theme for April is **Potpourri**.

If you wish to participate, you should prepare a maximum of **four (4) nature-related images**. Be sure to:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Place your four resized images in a zip file with your name and the meeting date.
- Send your zipped images to **share@monep.org by midnight on the Friday the week prior to the meeting. (April 12th** for this month**)**

For more information about *Share and Show* formatting please see ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**.

New Members

Welcome to our newest members: **Susie Brent, Daniel Buckenmyer, Daniel Esarey, Carla Hsie, Bob Lawrence, Roger Ottwell, Marilyn Schaefer and Will Solomon**.

Member News

Linda Alessi has been recording videos of a pair of barred owls in a nest box using an infrared camera. She has kindly shared the footage with The World Bird Sanctuary, which has put the clips on YouTube. The links are: **youtube.com/watch?v=rYH34K6cPX0** and **youtube.com/watch?v=x6o86E4UoVM**.

Lori Purk was the featured artist for the month of March for the **Missouri Artisans Association – Best of Missouri Hands.** Lori was interviewed for the honor and you can read more about her at **http://intouch.bomh.org/lori-purk-featured-artis/** Congratulations!

Margy Terpstra has been invited to present two different programs at the **Strawberry Plains Hummingbird Migration Celebration and Nature Festival** at **The Strawberry Plains Audubon Center near Holly Springs, Mississippi**. The festival will be held **September 6th-8th.** Margy will offer an updated talk on ***Our Garden is for the Birds*** and another, ***Add the Magic of Moving Water to Your Garden***, on each of the three days. The festival generally has an attendance of 8,000 people during the 3-day weekend.

Saint Louis Zoo Art Exhibit

Inspired by Nature, a collection of stunning original paintings by internationally acclaimed wildlife artist and conservationist, **Robert Bateman** will go on display in **Peabody Hall at the Saint Louis Zoo on April 19th**. Peabody Hall is a former elephant house on the Zoo grounds. The exhibit features more than 20 major wildlife paintings from Bateman's portfolio. The subjects range from the American bald eagle to the African rhinoceros. There are many lessons for the nature photographer in Bateman's work. In writing about his image of the African buffalo he said: "The basic concept for this painting is a big letter T, which I want to hit you like a Mack Truck. To give a little lyric twist, I echoed the form of the bull's horns in the two egrets that are slipping off to one side." The exhibit will be up through 2014.

March Meeting Recap

Our thanks to **Mark Glenshaw** for an engaging talk about a pair of great horned owls that nest in Forest Park. Mark has been observing these two birds and their offspring regularly since December 2005. During this time, he has watched, photographed, and videotaped the owls hunting, hooting, mating and raising their young. He shares his discoveries on his blog, ***Forest Park Owls***, at **forestparkowls.blogspot.com**.

Mark first became interested in the owls when he encountered the two of them in the summer of 2005. He watched them for thirty minutes as they hooted together in a duet. Intrigued by the experience, Mark began to read about great horned owls and attempted to see them regularly. At first his sightings were inconsistent, but in December 2005 he found the male in the large hollow of a cottonwood tree. He watched as the male groomed and hooted and then flew away. He soon discovered that he had come upon the birds' roosting and nesting area rather than the hunting area where he had seen them previously. This roosting area provided Mark with far more regular and reliable sightings of the owls.

Great horned owls are one of the most common species of owl in North America. Their range extends from the tundra south through the U.S. and Central America into South America. They live in woodlands, deserts, prairies and rain forests. Although at a casual glance males and females look much the same, there are differences. The males are smaller than the females and have low, long calls with fewer notes than the females do. Males tend to be 20"-22" tall with more varied color. The female is 22"-25" tall and weighs over 3-4 pounds and she has more uniform coloration.

Great horned owls are swift, silent flyers. They hunt from a perch, swooping down in an effort to capture their prey. Mark shared a remarkable bit of video he recorded of one of the owls nearly catching a bat in midair. They eat the widest variety of prey of any North American owl and are even known to eat skunks.

The owls nest in tree holes and start mating in November or December. They lay their eggs in mid-January and the young hatch in February. They fledge at 6-8 weeks and leave their parents' territory at 7-9 months, just as the adults are gearing up to start the cycle all over again. Over the years, Mark has watched as the pair has raised 17 young. Although he calls himself an amateur, he is quite a remarkable self-taught expert!

MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, April 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The April and May meetings will be held at **Powder Valley Nature Center**

Share and Show Nature Images

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for April is ***Potpourri***. Please follow the instructions on ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Name your images according to the directions at monep.org under tips.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Compress your four resized images into a zip file.
- Send your zipped images via email to **share@monep.org by midnight, Friday, April 12th**.

April Meeting - Dr. Patricia Hagen

At the confluence of two of the greatest rivers in North America--the Mississippi and the Missouri--is an abundance of natural riparian habitats and accessible public lands that provide incredible opportunities for wildlife viewing. Federal and state agencies, as well as non-profit organizations such as Audubon, cooperate in land management and public outreach to conserve these precious natural resources and to ensure that the public understands and appreciates this area's significance and beauty.

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and **The Audubon Center at Riverlands**, located within the Sanctuary, demonstrate an important example of this conservation and public outreach work. Every season brings beautiful changes to the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, providing a multitude of opportunities for the public to connect to a broad diversity of species of birds, and to appreciate the changes in the wetland prairie and bottomland forest habitat over the year. **Dr. Patricia Hagen**, **Vice President and Executive Director of Audubon Missouri, and Executive Director of the Audubon Center at Riverlands** will describe the region's wonderful natural habitats as well as what can be seen over the seasons, with an emphasis on the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Dr. Hagen received her Doctorate in Public Policy Analysis from Saint Louis University. She spent twenty years at SLU, where she served as Associate Provost for Research, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

2013 Field Trips

Saturday, April 20th marks the return of the MoNEP Field Trips. **Randy Hunter** and **Bill Lubben** have been hard at work planning for the season. Here are some updates on MoNEP outings:

- Field trips will be offered monthly from April to October, depending on the weather.
- Some field trips will be held on both Thursdays and Saturdays at the same location.
- Randy and Bill will do their best to scout locations prior to the trip dates, and may offer an alternate site near their chosen destination should conditions require a last minute change.

Please remember to take some photographs of other field trip participants. We are always looking for people shots for our holiday show and public event displays.

April Field Trip

The first field trip of the year will be at **Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, Missouri on Saturday, April 20th**. The meeting time is **6:30 a.m.** and the gathering spot is the **parking lot for the Bascom House**. In addition to your camera gear you may also want to bring along water, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and a snack.

Tips for Dramatic RAW Images

Greg Basco was back in St. Louis recently to present at a St. Louis Camera Club meeting. His talk was on *The Art of Biodiversity: In-Camera Techniques for Producing Dramatic Rainforest Images*. Despite the title, many of the techniques Greg discussed are easily adapted to temperate areas. Greg discussed coping with areas of strong light and shade and balancing on-camera flash with natural light for emphasis. He suggested learning to use flash off camera for a more natural look. He often works with multiple flashes, and will use them in tandem with flashlights for creative macro images.

Greg touched on composition and advocated simplifying the world for stronger images. In dense forest it is often advantageous to photograph a small slice of the scene than to try to get an effective shot of the tangled jungle. Greg showed two images of a couple of scenes, one with the broad view and another in which he reduced the number of elements. The latter were much stronger and more evocative photographs. Greg also showed several fine examples of eye-catching images that utilized the golden spiral and golden triangle as compositional elements. He talked about giving animal subjects some space in portraits and the benefit of including a sense of place. As always, Greg's presentation was informative, his passion contagious and his images, stunning.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month. Specific dates and meeting locations are posted in the newsletter and on the MoNEP web site.

MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.

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